

To: FINtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Please support HB 6840 and bike and pedestrian funding

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

As a young professional living in Connecticut and a member of Bike Walk Connecticut, I support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multiuse paths, and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut. Please support HB 6840.

Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, our community and our economy.

Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them.

Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.

Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that I and other young professionals have in mind. I want to be able to get places without using a car all the time, and feel safe doing so. I chose my current residence based on walkability of the neighborhood and access to public transit, but it was hard to find these things in Connecticut. Many of my peers want the same thing!

A well-designed active transportation network will help bring millennials and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy. For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you.

Claire Foster  
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